

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Ag84Pro #689
Cop. 2

WATERSHED WORK BEGINS on the FARM

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

MAY

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

- GRASS
- TREES
- PONDS
- TERRACES
- SOD WATERWAYS
- STRIPCROPPING

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

PA 689



WATER SUPPLY OBJECTIVES

WATER SUPPLY STARTS ON YOUR LAND


This Nation's use of water by cities, industry, and agriculture is increasing by leaps and bounds. Clean water and a steady water supply are a growing concern of everyone. The protection and improvement of water sources have become of major importance to all citizens.

Water supplies are derived mainly from agricultural land. So agricultural conservation and land use adjustment on farms and ranches are basic to watershed protection, flood prevention, and an ample supply of clean water.

By applying conservation measures and by shifting land from cultivated crops to grass, trees, and other beneficial uses, farmers and ranchers curb soil erosion, conserve water for drought periods, and control excess runoff in times of heavy rainfall.

FARM, RANCH WORK BRINGS FAR-REACHING BENEFITS

What you and your neighbors do is equally important to nonfarm people in the watershed, and to the Nation.



WATER SUPPLY OBJECTIVES

WATER SUPPLY STARTS ON YOUR LAND

This Nation's use of water by cities, industry, and agriculture is increasing by leaps and bounds. Clean water and a steady water supply are a growing concern of everyone. The protection and improvement of water sources have become of major importance to all citizens.

Water supplies are derived mainly from agricultural land. So agricultural conservation and land use adjustment on farms and ranches are basic to watershed protection, flood prevention, and an ample supply of clean water.

By applying conservation measures and by shifting land from cultivated crops to grass, trees, and other beneficial uses, farmers and ranchers curb soil erosion, conserve water for drought periods, and control excess runoff in times of heavy rainfall.

FARM, RANCH WORK BRINGS FAR-REACHING BENEFITS

What you and your neighbors do is equally important to nonfarm people in the watershed, and to the Nation.

Protection of agricultural land keeps soil out of roads, drainage ditches, irrigation systems, lakes and reservoirs, and reduces flood damage downstream. Protection improves the timing of the water's arrival at streams, lakes, reservoirs, or underground storage where it can be withdrawn for human or industrial use.

Communities with water problems benefit through lower costs of construction and protection of dams and reservoirs built to prevent floods and to store their water. A more stable supply of water for homes and industry is assured.

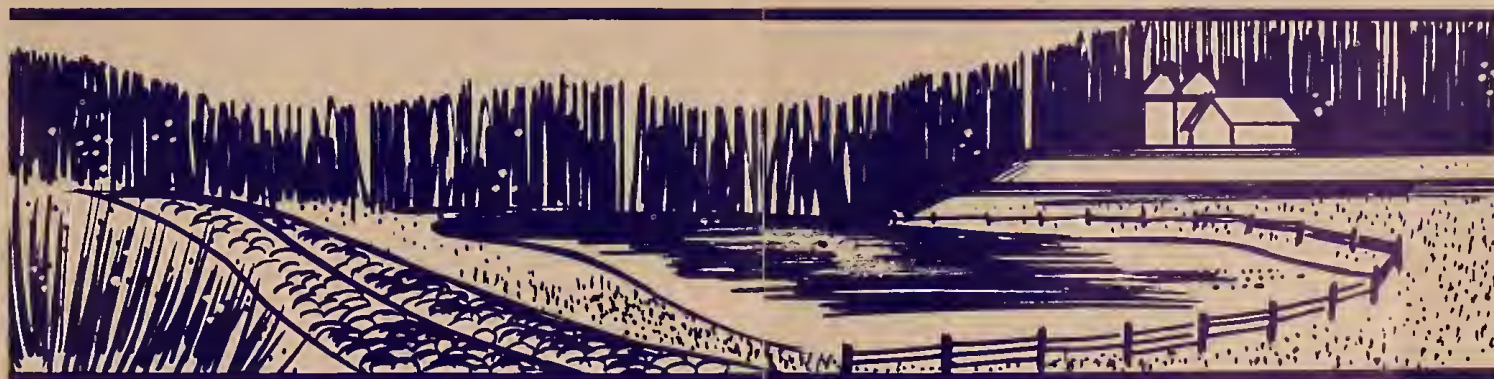
Less public expenditure is needed for repair and replacement of roads, bridges, stream channels, and reservoir capacity.

Measures taken to protect agricultural land also serve to enhance natural beauty, and increase hunting, fishing, and swimming places looked for by city families.

You and other conservation farmers or ranchers do an important public service in helping bring these far-reaching benefits to the people and communities in your watershed.

LAND TREATMENT TAKES MONEY

Costly structures built to store water or prevent flooding are only partly effective unless sound con-



servation work is done on the land in the watershed above them.

Two-thirds of all privately owned agricultural land, including woodlands, still needs conservation treatment. Some is needed on almost every farm and ranch.

The financial ability of landowners and operators to do the needed land treatment work is the key to success of any individual conservation effort or organized watershed protection. For a community to receive Federal assistance under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, the basic conservation work on half the land above floodwater

retarding dams and reservoir sites must be installed or planned.

All conservation work takes money. Because many conservation measures benefit nonfarmers as much or even more than farmers and ranchers, it is sound public policy for all the people to share with landowners in the cost of conservation.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

HELP AVAILABLE TO YOU

Income protection through price support and land use adjustment, and cost-sharing through the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) provide direct financial resources that help farmers and ranchers invest some of their net farm income in conservation.

These farm programs are proving their importance in the watershed projects now being carried out under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

ACP funds are allocated to counties with consideration for authorized watershed projects. Cost-sharing funds provided by ACP are made available where and when needed to help land users advance

the farm or ranch conservation plans which are a part of a watershed project.

Cost-sharing and income protection programs also help farmers and ranchers carry out conservation work planned in cooperation with soil and water conservation districts, wildlife conservation organizations, and other groups.

*Are You One of the Million?

The ACP locally offers cost-sharing on land treatment measures most needed by farmers and ranchers in terms of the most urgent conservation problems in a county.

ACP shares with over a million farmers and ranchers annually the cost of approved conservation measures.

Conservation nationally, with ACP cost-sharing help, is currently running about like this annually for some of the land treatment practices of particular benefit to watershed protection.

- 10 million acres of grass and legume cover on cropland.
- 363 thousand acres of trees usually on slopes once farmed but too steep for safe cultivation, and often gullied or with much of the topsoil lost, or in shelterbelts to control wind erosion and drifting snow—and tree stand improvements for forestry and conservation purposes.
- 31 thousand miles of terraces and spreader-diversions across the slope to control water, to provide a foundation for cultivating crops on the contour of the slope, or to improve grazing land.
- 64 thousand ponds essential to good water management. The versatile farm or ranch pond comes in many sizes to heal gullies, conserve surface water, and improve grass by better distributing grazing. Ponds also benefit wildlife, provide recreation, and add beauty to the landscape.
- 16 thousand miles of grassed waterways to control sedimentation, heal gullies, and safely dispose of excess runoff to outlets, ponds or streams.
- 412 thousand acres of stripcropping where strips of grass, legumes or close growing grain alternate with strips of open row crops. The strips act as living check dams to save soil and water. In the Great Plains, grass and shrub strips at right angles to prevailing winds reduce wind erosion and conserve water.

***Surplus Cropland Gets Better Job**

Cropland diversion and price support programs provide other financial resources that help farmers get their part of watershed protection work started and kept rolling.

Adjustment payments are made to farmers as income replacements on the land they divert from surplus crops to approved conserving uses.

The Cropland Adjustment Program (CAP), passed by the Congress in 1965, provides for the conserving use of up to 40 million acres that have been producing crops.

***CAP Offers Farmers 5-10 Year Program**

The new CAP has long-range advantages.

It will help farmers stabilize their income, plan farther ahead, increase soil and water saving measures, reduce soil-caused pollution, increase wildlife, preserve open spaces, and enhance natural beauty in rural areas and around cities.

It will stimulate cities, towns, and other government agencies to acquire cropland for needed public



use. It will boost local community efforts to preserve open spaces, create natural beauty, protect wildlife, provide recreation, and reduce water pollution.

It will encourage farmers and ranchers to open up their farm lands to the public for hunting, hiking, trapping, and fishing.

VISIT YOUR ASCS OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION

These cost-sharing, income protection, and cropland adjustment programs are run locally by Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committees of farmers elected by their neighbors to this responsibility.

They operate in combination with other important conservation programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture—technical assistance, soil and water loans, conservation research, and educational services. State agricultural experiment stations, extension services, and soil and water conservation districts cooperate in bringing these services to you.

For more information about these programs, visit your ASCS county office.

ISSUED MARCH 1966

SUPERSEDES PA 523, "WATERSHED WORK ON THE FARM"

